



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release To PM's, DECEMBER 4, 1959

PUBLIC AID ASKED IN FIGHT ON DUCK TRAPPING

An appeal for public assistance in drying up the market for ducks being illegally trapped and sold by a modern generation of market hunters on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay, one of the principal waterfowl wintering grounds on the east coast, was made today by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross Leffler.

"The people who are knowingly buying these ducks are the worst violators of all, for they are making it worthwhile for the duck trappers to carry on their operations," asserted the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.

"It's reported that the principal markets are in Baltimore and Philadelphia. Wherever they exist, I hope that people who hear about such sales will give that information either to Federal or State game wardens. Clues about trapping operations also should be brought to the attention of the wardens. People who transmit such information may rest assured that their identity will be kept in complete confidence."

It was emphasized that trapping operations are menacing the sport of waterfowling in the areas where public silence permits them to exist. The loss of such hunting can have serious economic effect on the local communities involved.

The Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife issued his statement after receiving a report on a meeting of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Virginia Game and Inland Fish Commission personnel on the problem. Plans were developed for close coordination of all activities by enforcement officers of both agencies.

In attendance at the meeting which was held in Accomac Court House, Accomac County, Virginia, were:

From the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service--Paul Quick, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, and Charles H. Lawrence, Assistant Chief of the Branch of Management and Enforcement, both of Washington, D. C.; William T. Davis, Regional Supervisor of Management and Enforcement, Atlanta, Georgia; Joseph D. Withers, Cambridge, Maryland, U. S. Game Management Agent in charge of the State of Maryland and Accomac and Northampton Counties on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia; Agent Hugh V. Hines, Salisbury, Maryland; Agent-Pilot Robert H. Bain and Agent Darrell F. Shuffler, both of Cambridge, Maryland; and Agent Alva E. Weinrich, Chincoteague, Virginia.

From the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Commission--Webb Midyette, Chief of Enforcement; Division Supervisor of Enforcement Purks; Ronald Halstead, Captain of Wardens in the Virginia area involved; and Wardens Ross, Crumb, Doughty, Pharnock, and Chesser.

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